

Suba37 WE CLAIM:

1. A stent having a proximal end and a distal end, the stent comprising:
a plurality of axially spaced serpentine bands, each serpentine band having a proximal and distal end and consisting of a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts of substantially the same length, serpentine bands which are adjacent one another connected one to the other; and

a plurality of wishbone connectors, each wishbone connector connecting two serpentine bands which are adjacent one another and having an elongate portion which is disposed between the two serpentine bands and does not overlap longitudinally with either of the two serpentine bands, the elongate portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end having two legs extending therefrom to one of the two serpentine bands and the distal end having two legs extending therefrom to the other of the two serpentine bands,

at least one wishbone connector connecting serpentine bands which are adjacent one another.

2. The stent of claim 1 wherein at least two wishbone connectors extend between each two adjacent serpentine bands.

3. The stent of claim 2 wherein each serpentine band comprises a plurality of alternating peaks and troughs and each leg of each wishbone connector extends from a location on a serpentine band between a peak and a trough.

4. The stent of claim 1 wherein the elongate portions of the connectors extend in a direction non-parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

5. The stent of claim 4 wherein the elongate portions of the connectors have a plurality of turns.

6. The stent of claim 1 wherein the legs extending from the first end of the elongate portion of each wishbone connector are circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the legs extending from the second end of the elongate portion of the wishbone connector.

7. The stent of claim 1 wherein each serpentine band comprises a plurality of alternating peaks and troughs and each leg of each wishbone connector extends from a location on a serpentine band between a peak and a trough.

8. The stent of claim 1 wherein each serpentine band comprises alternating peaks and troughs, the number of peaks in the stent being twice the number of wishbone connectors.
9. The stent of claim 1 wherein the width of the serpentine bands exceeds the width of the wishbone connectors.
10. A stent having a first proximal end and a distal end, the stent comprising:
a plurality of axially spaced serpentine bands, each serpentine band having a proximal end and a distal end, each serpentine band having a plurality of peaks and troughs, all of the peaks longitudinally aligned with one another, all of the troughs longitudinally aligned with one another, serpentine bands which are adjacent one another connected one to the other; and
a plurality of wishbone connectors, each wishbone connector connecting two serpentine bands which are adjacent one another and having an elongate portion which is disposed between the two serpentine bands and does not overlap longitudinally with either of the two serpentine bands, the elongate portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end having two legs extending therefrom to one of the two serpentine bands and the distal end having two legs extending therefrom to the other of the two serpentine bands,
at least one wishbone connector connecting serpentine bands which are adjacent one another.
11. The stent of claim 10 wherein at least two wishbone connectors extend between each two adjacent serpentine bands.
12. The stent of claim 11 wherein each serpentine band comprises a plurality of alternating peaks and troughs and each leg of each wishbone connector extends from a location on a serpentine band between a peak and a trough.
13. The stent of claim 10 wherein the elongate portions of the connectors extend in a direction non-parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent.
14. The stent of claim 13 wherein the elongate portions of the connectors have a plurality of turns.
15. The stent of claim 10 wherein the legs extending from the first end of the elongate portion of each wishbone connector are circumferentially and longitudinally

displaced from the legs extending from the second end of the elongate portion of the wishbone connector.

16. The stent of claim 10 wherein each serpentine band comprises a plurality of alternating peaks and troughs and each leg of each wishbone connector extends from a location on a serpentine band between a peak and a trough.

17. The stent of claim 10 wherein each serpentine band comprises alternating peaks and troughs, the number of peaks in the stent being twice the number of wishbone connectors.

18. A stent comprising a plurality of first and second alternating serpentine bands, the first serpentine bands being of one geometry and the second serpentine bands being of a geometry different than the first serpentine bands,

each of the first and second serpentine bands having a proximal end and a distal end, each second serpentine band connected to one proximally adjacent first serpentine band via a plurality of first connectors and to one distally adjacent first serpentine band via a plurality of second connectors,

each second serpentine band being characterized by a repeating pattern of two or more consecutive first connectors extending distally from the second serpentine band followed by two or more first connectors extending proximally from the second serpentine band.

19. The stent of claim 18 wherein the first serpentine bands are comprised of a plurality of interconnected first struts, the second serpentine bands are comprised of a plurality of interconnected second struts, the second struts being narrower than the first struts.

20. The stent of claim 18 wherein at least some of the second serpentine bands each comprise a plurality of openings of a first shape and a plurality of openings of a second shape, the second shape different from the first shape.

21. The stent of claim 18 wherein at least some of the second serpentine bands each comprise a plurality of openings some of which are non-parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second serpentine segment.

22. The stent of claim 18 wherein the first and second connectors are substantially straight.